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RUFHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0585
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BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 07821

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, PREF, RO, HU
SUBJECT: ESTIMATE OF ROMANIAN REFUGEES IN HUNGARY

REFS: (A) BUCHAREST 5552
- (B) BUDAPEST 7088
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1. AS INDICATED REF (B), THE SOURCE OF SENATE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE-REPORT'S ESTIMATE OF "ABOUT
30,000 ETHNIC HUNGARIANS AND ABOUT 6,000
ETHNIC ROMANIANS FROM TRANSYLVANIA IN HUNGARY" WAS
APPARENTLY CONGRESSMAN FEIGHAN'S JULY 1
LETTER, SIGNED BY 199 OTHER HOUSE MEMBERS,
WHICH REPORTED FIGURES AS UP TO 30,000/8,000.

2. REF (A), PARA 3 STATISTIC FROM
"MAGYAR HIRLAP" ACTUALLY REFERS TO JUNE 17 REPORT
THAT 4R977 TRANSYLVANIAN MAGYARS RECEIVED HUNGARIAN
RESIDENCE PERMITS DURING 1/1/88 - 6/10/88.

3. AS NOTED REF (B), WE HAVE HEARD NUMEROUS
ALLEGATIONS THAT THESE OFFICIAL STATISTICS OVER-
REPORT OR UNDER-REPORT THE ACTUAL FIGURES. ON
ONE HAND, THE POINT IS MADE THAT OFFICIAL STATISTICS
REFLECT ONLY THOSE TRANSYLVANIAN MAGYARS WHO HAVE
THUS FAR SOUGHT REFUGEE STATUS BUT MAY OVERLOOK
SOME WHO ARE LIVING WITH FAMILIES OR IN TEMPORARY
EMPLOYMENT STATUS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS HARD
TO SEE HOW A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF UNDOCUMENTED
INDIVIDUALS COULD EXIST FOR LONG IN THIS CONTROLLED
SOCIETY. SOME LOCAL TRANSYLVANIAN ACTIVISTS FEEL
OFFICIAL STATISTICS ARE LOW BECAUSE THE GOH IS
LEERY OF EXCITING POPULAR ECONOMIC RESENTMENT
AGAINST TRANSYLVANIAN MAGYARS WHO NEED SCARCE JOBS
AND EVEN SCARCER HOUSING. SO, AS WE CONCLUDED IN
REF (B), THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS ARE WHAT WE HAVE
TO WORK WITH, AND THEY SUGGEST THAT THERE ARE
PRESENTLY 10,000-PLUS FAIRLY RECENT TRANSYLVANIAN
MAGYAR ARRIVALS IN VARIOUS STAGES OF RESETTLEMENT
HERE, WITH MORE COMING.

PALMER

END OF MESSAGE

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